

LOG OF MEETING DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Work Group on Battery-Powered Ride-On (BPRO) Toys to discuss proposed requirements for F963, Standard Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety

DATE OF MEETING: February 7, 2000

PLACE OF MEETING: Roycroft Inn, East Aurora, NY 14052

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Doug Lee, ESEE *DL*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: February 11, 2000

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Doug Lee, ESEE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Robert Coughlin, Fisher-Price, Inc./ Work Group Chairman - BPRO Toys
Joan Lawrence, Toy Manufacturers of America (TMA) - Director of Standards and Regulatory Affairs
Elaine Besson, EHB Consulting, TMA Consultant
Wolfgang Casta, Hedstrom Corporation
Rick Locker, Locker, Greenberg & Brainin, TMA General Counsel
Timothy Harris, Peg Perego
Roland Riegel, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Michael Babiak, Energizer

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The work group met and discussed revised requirements that were proposed at the November 11, 1999 meeting. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Lee provided written comments from the CPSC technical staff to Mr. Coughlin and the work group. Also prior to the meeting, Mr. Coughlin provided revised requirements from some of the work group members. Mr. Coughlin's revisions were used for the basis of the discussions at the February 7, 2000 meeting.

The scope of the proposed requirements was rewritten. The work group was in general agreement that the scope of these requirements should include all BPRO toys with batteries that have the capacity to deliver 8 amperes into an external resistor for 1 minute.

Much of the rest of the meeting was used to discuss normal and abnormal operating conditions and the appropriate proposed requirements for including into the standard for Toy Safety, ASTM F963.

The CPSC technical staff position is that normal tests should include testing at the upper end of

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normal operating conditions and environments to which the vehicle is exposed. These include testing with inclines and bumpy terrain, maximum weight limits specified by the manufacturer, and exposure to outdoor environments in various geographic locations. The CPSC technical staff believes that abnormal testing should include foreseeable misuse of the toy including: stalling, overloading, and constant rocking or switching from forward to reverse of the BPRO toy. Most of the work group members expressed the opinion that tests should only be conducted under typical-use conditions.

The CPSC technical staff is concerned that the majority of the work group member's proposed requirements do not adequately address the hazards. Additionally, the majority of the work group member's proposed requirements may result in increased nuisance tripping that will lead to consumer modifications and bypassing of the overcurrent protection devices.

The work group will reconvene in April.